

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 1, ¶ [0001], with the following:

[0001]

The present invention relates to a stapler provided with: a movable clincher mechanism which strikes out a U-shaped staple toward binding sheets and then clinches the legs of the staple penetrated through the back surface side of the binding sheets along the back surface of the binding sheets; and a staple leg cutting mechanism which cuts the staple legs staple penetrated through the binding sheets to the back surface side thereof according to the thickness of the binding sheets and then bends the thus-cut staple legs along the back surfaces of the binding sheets.

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 2, ¶ [0002], with the following:

[0002]

Conventionally, in an electric stapler or the like which strikes a staple toward binding sheets to thereby bind the binding sheets together in a bundle by the staple, a U-shaped staple including a pair of leg portions extending in the same direction is struck out toward binding sheets from the front surfaces of the binding sheets by a striking mechanism, and the pair of leg portions of the staple penetrated through the binding sheets are bent or clinched along the back surfaces of the binding sheets by a clincher mechanism. For example, an ordinary clincher mechanism used in a conventional electric stapler as disclosed in JP-A-10-128683 is composed of a pair of movable clinchers which are rotatably disposed opposed to the respective staple legs

penetrated through the back surface side of the binding sheets. In this clincher mechanism, after the penetration of the most portions of the staple legs of the staple struck out from a striking mechanism through the binding sheets is completed, the movable clinchers are operated and rotated to bend the staple legs along the back surfaces of the binding sheets, thereby binding the binding sheets by the staple.

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 2, ¶ [0003], with the following:

[0003]

The pair of movable clinchers are disposed opposed to the striking position of the staple and are rotatably supported on their respective pivots between two clincher guide plates disposed side by side in the back-and-forth direction, and the clincher surfaces of the movable clinchers are disposed so as to be engageable with the respective legs of the staple penetrated through the binding sheets. To operate and rotate the movable clinchers, there is ~~provides~~ provided a drive lever the central portion of which is rotatably supported on a frame. When the rear portion of the drive lever is engaged with a drive cam which can be rotated by a motor used to drive the stapler, the front end portion of the drive lever can be operated and oscillated in the upward and downward directions; and when the front end portion of the drive lever is engaged with part of the movable clincher and the drive lever is then operated or oscillated, the movable clincher can be rotated. When a roller mounted on the rear end of the drive lever is contacted with the cam surface of the drive cam and the drive cam is rotated, the rear end of the drive lever is operated or oscillated in the vertical direction and thus the front end portion of the drive lever is oscillated

in the vertical direction about the rotation support shaft of the drive lever, thereby causing the drive lever to press down part of the movable clincher. As a result, the movable clincher is rotated about its support shaft and thus the clincher surface of the movable clincher is engaged with its associated staple leg, so that the movable clincher clinches or bends the staple leg portion along the back surfaces of the binding sheets to thereby bind together the binding sheets.

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 14, ¶ [0018], with the following:

[0018]

Fig. 1 is a side view of a stapler incorporating therein a staple leg cutting mechanism according to the invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view of the same stapler as shown in Fig. 1, showing a state in which a clincher mechanism is in operation.

Fig. 3 is a front view of a staple leg cutting mechanism and a clincher mechanism respectively formed in a clincher mechanism part.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the same staple leg cutting mechanism and clincher mechanism as shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a side view of the same staple leg cutting mechanism and clincher mechanism as shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the staple leg cutting mechanism and clincher mechanism, showing in a state where they are in operation.

Fig. 7 is a longitudinal section view of the staple leg cutting mechanism, showing a state before it is operated.

Fig. 8 is a longitudinal front view of the staple leg cutting mechanism, showing a state where movable cutters are operated and ~~slided~~ slid by cutter cams.

Fig. 9 is a longitudinal front view of the staple leg cutting mechanism, showing a state where the movable cutters are held at their sliding operation positions.

Fig. 10 (a) is a longitudinal front view of the main portions of the clincher mechanism, showing the operation state of the clincher mechanism, specifically, showing a state before drive links are operated.

Fig. 10 (b) is a longitudinal front view of the main portions of the clincher mechanism, showing the operation state of the clincher mechanism, specifically showing a state just before movable clinchers are operated and rotated.

Fig. 10 (c) is a longitudinal front view of the main portions of the clincher mechanism, showing the operation state of the clincher mechanism, specifically showing a state in which the clinching operation of the staple legs by the movable clinchers is completed.

Fig. 10 (d) is a is a longitudinal front view of the main portions of the clincher mechanism, showing the operation state of the clincher mechanism, specifically showing a state in which, after the clinching operation of the staple legs by the movable clincher is completed, the drive links are further operated.

Fig. 11 is a longitudinal front view of the clincher mechanism, showing a state before it is operated.

Fig. 12 is a longitudinal front view of the clincher mechanism, showing a clinching state in which the movable clinchers are rotated by clincher cams.

Fig. 13 is a perspective view of the drive mechanism, showing a motor, a driver roller, and a driven roller.

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 17, ¶ [0021], with the following:
[0021]

Fig. 1 shows a stapler according to an embodiment of the invention. In a stapler frame 2 forming the outline of the present stapler 1, there are stored an electric motor 31 and a drive mechanism 30, including a driver roller 32 and a driven roller 33, which can be driven and rotated by this electric motor 31. See Fig. 13 for the drive mechanism 30. Also, in the lower portion of the stapler frame 2, there is disposed a striking mechanism part 3 which can be driven by the drive mechanism 30 to thereby strike out a U-shaped staple toward binding sheets. The striking mechanism part 3 according to the present embodiment is structured such that not only it can form a large number of mutually connected straight-shaped staple materials into a U-shaped staple using forming means but also it can strike out the thus-formed staple in an upward facing manner toward binding sheets disposed upwardly of the striking mechanism part 3.

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 20, ¶ [0027], with the following:

[0027]

In the support plate 8, there are formed rotation cams 9 which are used to rotate their associated movable cutters 7 and movable clinchers 11. Each of the rotation cams 9 is composed of a cutter cam 15 and a clincher cam 16 which are formed as an integral body. The cutter cam 15 can be engaged with the side surface of its associated movable cutter 7 to thereby drive and slide the movable cutter 7, and a clincher cam 16 can be engaged with the operation piece 13 of the movable clincher 11 to thereby operate and rotate the movable clincher 11. The rotation cam 9 is supported on the support plate 8 by a rotation support shaft 17 in such a manner that the cutter cam 15 and clincher cam 16 can be rotated integrally. The cams 15 and 16 respectively have arc-shaped cam surfaces 15a and 16a formed on the outer peripheral surfaces thereof, while the arc-shaped cam surfaces 15a and 16a are respectively disposed so as to face the movable cutter 7 and the operation piece 13 of the movable clincher 11. Thus, when the cams are rotated, the movable cutter 7 and movable clincher 11 can be operated. The cutter cam 15 and clincher cam 16 are combined as an integral body so that they can be rotated integrally. As shown in Fig. 5, the cutter and clincher cams 15 and 16 can be driven and rotated by a drive link 18 the lower portion of which can be operated and oscillated by a drive mechanism 30 for driving the stapler 1.

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 22, ¶ [0029], with the following:

[0029]

As shown in Fig. 7, in a state where the drive link 18 is not in operation, the leading end portion 18a of the drive link 18 is disposed in its upper position. Therefore, the cutter cam 15 and clincher cam 16, which are disposed on the left side in the drawing, are situated in the positions where they have been rotated clockwise about the rotation support shaft 17; whereas the cutter cam 15 and clincher cam 16, which are disposed on the right side, are situated in the positions where they have been rotated counterclockwise about the rotation support shaft 17. And, the movable cutters 7 are respectively disposed in positions where they have been retreated in the outside direction of the staple legs S1 of the staple S, while the clincher pieces 12 of the movable clinchers ~~12~~ 11 are disposed inclined and opposed to the striking position of the staple S. The cutter and clincher cams 15 and 16 are not rotated until the staple legs S1 of the staple S struck out from the striking mechanism part 3 toward the binding sheets are penetrated through the binding sheets and the leading end portions of the staple legs S1 are guided by the clincher pieces 12 and are thereby inserted into and between the fixed cutter 6 and movable cutters 7.

Please correct the paragraph beginning on page 23, ¶ [0030], with the following:

[0030]

After the staple legs S1 of the staple S struck out from the striking mechanism part 3 and penetrated through the binding sheets are guided by the clincher pieces 12 and are thus inserted into and between the fixed cutter 6 and movable cutters 7, the drive links 18 are operated by the drive mechanism 30 and thus the leading end portions 18a of the drive links 18 are operated and oscillated downward, thereby operating and rotating the cutter and clincher cams 15 and 16 disposed on the left side of the drawing counterclockwise as well as the cutter and clincher cams 15 and 16 on the right side clockwise. As shown in Fig. 8, when the leading end portions 18a of the drive links 18 are operated substantially up to their respective intermediate positions, the movable cutters 7 are respectively operated and ~~slided~~ slid by the arc-shaped cam surfaces 15a of their respective cutter cams 15, whereby the leading end portions of the staple legs S1 interposed between the fixed cutter 6 and movable cutters 7 are cut. At the then time, as shown in Fig. 11, the clincher cams 16 are not yet engaged with the operation pieces 13 of their respective movable clinchers 11 and, therefore, the movable clinchers 11 are not operated yet.